



Hunter River High School

Literacy Resource

Year 10

Name _____

Using better verbs

Choose a verb from the box to complete each sentence.

<i>demolish</i>	<i>confine</i>	<i>select</i>	<i>decapitate</i>	<i>amplify</i>	<i>provoke</i>
<i>inform</i>	<i>discuss</i>	<i>acknowledge</i>	<i>exclude</i>	<i>defend</i>	<i>reiterate</i>

- 1 When we talk about something we _____ it.
- 2 When we guard something precious we _____ it.
- 3 When we cut off a snake's head we _____ it.
- 4 When we choose from a number we _____ it.
- 5 When we turn up the sound on the television we _____ it.
- 6 When we repeat a statement over again we _____ it.
- 7 When we lock a dog up in the yard we _____ it.
- 8 When we knock a house down we _____ it.
- 9 When we tell someone officially we _____ them.
- 10 When we agree that we have been wrong we _____ it.
- 11 When we rouse someone to action we _____ them.
- 12 When we keep someone out of something we _____ them.

<i>console</i>	<i>sabotage</i>	<i>liberate</i>	<i>recollect</i>	<i>tolerate</i>	<i>malign</i>
<i>compensate</i>	<i>orientate</i>	<i>insinuate</i>	<i>accumulate</i>	<i>concede</i>	<i>countermand</i>

- 13 When we show malice towards someone we _____ them.
- 14 When we gather lots of junk we _____ it.
- 15 When we remember something we _____ it.
- 16 When we free a bird that has been caught in the house we _____ it.
- 17 When we admit defeat we _____ it.
- 18 When we find our bearings with a compass we _____ ourselves.
- 19 When we put up with someone's failings we _____ them.
- 20 When we suggest something indirectly, usually unpleasant, we _____ it.
- 21 When we cancel a command already given we _____ it.
- 22 When we want to damage something that is working we _____ it.
- 23 When we make a payment to someone for some damage we _____ them.
- 24 When we want to lessen someone's grief we _____ them.

Using other words besides 'nice'

The word 'nice' is used too often and is not particularly descriptive. Choose an appropriate word from the box to use instead of 'nice'.

exquisite

courteous

delicious

trim

charitable

graceful

- 1 Mum always maintained that my first boy-friend was always nice _____.
- 2 A nice _____ man gave \$200,000 to the fund being raised for victims of the floods.
- 3 I think violets are nice _____ flowers to have in a bowl somewhere in the house.
- 4 Maureen completed a nice _____ double somersault to win the diving championship.
- 5 We all enjoyed a nice _____ meal at the new Italian restaurant.
- 6 By working out in the gymnasium, Mr Gorton now has a nice _____ waistline.

pleasant

amiable

succulent

elegant

savoury

handsome

- 7 A nice _____ smell of roasting turkey greeted us as we entered the house.
- 8 On Sunday our family went on a nice _____ walk through the park.
- 9 Sandra is a nice _____ girl who gets on with everyone at school.
- 10 The house was full of nice _____ furniture.
- 11 There is nothing like a nice _____ peach to finish off a school lunch.
- 12 Michael is considered to be nice _____ by all the girls in our class.

precise

elegant

tender

delicate

delightful

attractive

- 13 The embroidered tablecloth was made up of nice _____ stitching.
- 14 Dad has accepted a nice _____ position with a building company in Singapore.
- 15 Make sure you buy nice _____ steak for dinner tonight.
- 16 Mum wore a nice _____ evening gown to the ball held by her law firm.
- 17 We arrived at the airport in nice _____ time to pick up my aunt.
- 18 On meeting the girl, I found she had a nice _____ personality.

Word Choice – Exercise 9: *Whose* and *Who's*

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate choice—*whose* or *who's*.

1. If you want to identify that ugly bug in your hair, ask Claudia, _____ collection of beetles covers every inch of her bedroom walls.
2. The biggest entertainment at the picnic was Louis, _____ ability to eat an entire hotdog in one mouthful amazed everyone who watched him demonstrate this feat fifteen times.
3. In the computer lab sits Veronica, _____ furiously typing as she attempts to meet Dr. William's nonnegotiable deadline for the research paper.
4. _____ going to bait Jerry's hook and gut his fish if you invite your squeamish brother to come fishing with us?
5. Before you buy a pit bull or Rottweiler puppy, talk to Thomas, _____ attack hamster will bite the fingers of any hand that enters its cage.
6. As Mom stood in front of the frozen vegetables, she thought of Lorraine, _____ loathing of lima beans would mean a dinner's worth of complaints if Mom chose them for dinner.
7. Pirouetting by the cash register is Celina, _____ as comfortable dancing in line at the cafeteria as she is the in ballet studio.
8. We all turned to stare at Brenda, _____ wacky hairstyle included feathers, ribbons, and macaroni braided into her hair.
9. Clive sat behind Julie, _____ long, curly, red hair dripped down her white shoulders like strawberry syrup over vanilla ice cream.
10. Tanya, _____ praying no one requests the last slice of cheese pizza, waited in the long cafeteria line.
11. Professor Byrnes sighed with impatience after he called on Kevin, _____ lack of preparation always holds up the rest of the enthusiastic class.
12. Jackie bought a half dozen tennis balls for her golden retriever Oliver, _____ bad habit of chewing off the fuzzy skins is expensive.
13. Francisco steeled himself for a 50-minute class with his theatrical math teacher, _____ jerky hand movements cause students in the front row to cringe like beaten dogs.
14. Jerrod, _____ ashamed that he ate the last doughnut, is discreetly wiping strawberry jelly from the corner of his mouth.
15. Latoya chuckled as she watched her little brother Reggie, _____ little finger waved in the air as he attempted sophistication while drinking hot tea.

16. Our dog Cooper, _____ waiting politely under the table, expects a meatball from **everyone** before dinner is over.
17. _____ fungus-covered chicken salad sandwich is polluting the refrigerator in the lounge?
18. Mrs. Currall returned the A+ essay to Andre, _____ smile flashed despite his usual surly attitude in class.
19. Even though the lecture had begun, we knew we could soon expect Sasha, _____ always hitting the snooze button on the alarm instead of getting out of bed to be on time.
20. _____ going to drive Raymond to the park? He spilled a chocolate milkshake on my leather upholstery last week, so he cannot ride with me.

Word Choice – Exercise 8: *Whoever* and *Whomever*

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate choice—*whoever* or *whomever*.

1. If you take biology with Professor Parker, be sure to read all of the assignment directions. He gives As to _____ does exactly what he says.
2. After taking a bad step, Glenda cursed _____ allowed a dog to defecate on her pristine lawn.
3. Belinda will welcome _____ Terry picks to join the study group, even if he chooses another beautiful woman.
4. _____ ate my last slice of leftover pizza will pay as soon as I catch the first whiff of pepperoni breath.
5. You can sit beside _____ you wish. Just remember that Grandpa will put you to sleep with tales of what he could buy for 25 cents when he was a boy.
6. Sherry will share her juicy bit of gossip with _____ she finds in the cafeteria.
7. Professor Dunn can pick _____ she wants as our next author to study. *Anyone* will be a big improvement over our month with Melville and that dreadful book, *Moby-Dick*.
8. Jennifer will share her big bag of mixed nuts and dried cranberries with _____ sits beside her in the cafeteria.
9. While researching on the internet, Teresa readily believes _____ she reads, no matter how outrageous, misguided, or just plain stupid the person's ideas are.
10. At the end of the semester, Dr. Licata will leave piles of old books outside his office. He gives these outdated editions to _____ wanders down the hallway and wants a free text.
11. Chadwick will allow _____ needs a pencil or pen to borrow one, but he charges one dollar per hour, hoping to earn enough money to buy a hotdog and soda at lunch.
12. You can tell _____ seasoned this sauce that salt doesn't contribute to global warming or destroy the rainforest.
13. Grandpa shakes his fist and honks his horn at _____ he catches cutting into the cushion of space that he likes to maintain between his vehicle and the one in front.
14. _____ walks past the cookie jar and neglects to give Santana a biscuit will soon spy her big, sad beagle eyes pleading for a treat.
15. Samuel is desperate to pass his calculus class and thus win the admiration of the beautiful Julie, so he will trust _____ his professor recommends as a good tutor.

16. Mom says that she is withholding allowance from _____ left all of those wet towels on the bathroom floor.
17. _____ used the microwave oven left splattered spaghetti sauce and crusted cheese all over the interior.
18. _____ is brave enough must kill the giant spider in the shower.
19. You can recommend _____ you want for the cashier position. But don't waste my time interviewing someone who cannot do the simple math necessary to make correct change.
20. Despite Roger's disgust, Emily let the Great Dane puppy lick her entire face. Emily will kiss _____ she pleases.

Word Choice – Exercise 6: *Who* and *Whom*

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate choice—*who* or *whom*.

1. Kerry Ann, _____ hates spiders, wears bug-stomping boots wherever she goes.
2. Professor Borglum glared at Reggie, _____ spent the entire class drawing space aliens in the margins of the lecture outline.
3. Into the dark apartment walked David, _____ we nearly killed with surprise when everyone shouted “Happy Birthday” and jumped from behind the furniture.
4. In desperation, Belinda sought help from Professor White, _____ she knew preferred playing solitaire on his computer to assisting students during office hours.
5. The doctor explained that Rex, _____ we had rushed to the veterinary clinic, would not die after eating eight bananas that he stole off the kitchen counter.
6. Tim was too embarrassed to say anything to Deidre, _____ had sautéed spinach caught between two teeth.
7. Grandma bought Freddie, _____ wears black T-shirts exclusively, a button-down white oxford shirt and a navy blue blazer for Christmas.
8. Grandma, _____ Freddie loves despite her bad taste in clothing, believes that a blue blazer is an essential component of a young man’s wardrobe.
9. _____ believes that Kyle will eat the tarantula fried in garlic and olive oil?
10. Kyle, _____ will take anyone’s dare, no matter how outrageous, smacked his lips in anticipation of the fried tarantula.
11. The game show host presented a trophy and a \$500 check to Kyle, _____ Sara refused to give a congratulatory kiss.
12. Oliver, _____ hates to cut the lawn, pushed the heavy mower through the tall grass rather than face a fine by the homeowners association.
13. With _____ will Scoobie attend the homecoming festivities, the handsome Jake or the nerdy William?
14. We gave our crunchy apple cookies to Marilyn, _____ spit the first bite into a napkin and declared our new recipe “crapples.”
15. Melissa searched the house for her little brother Morgan, _____ she found asleep on a pile of clean towels.
16. _____ will you invite to dinner this Saturday? Warn the person that Rhonda has promised to make squid eyeball stew!

17. Since she arrived late, Clarissa had to decide between _____ she wished to sit, the prankster boys or the gossipy girls.
18. If her humans are home, Santana will bark her head off should a stray leaf blow onto the grass, but when the humans leave for work, she sleeps all day, no matter _____ enters the yard.
19. Richie, _____ tailgates so closely that he can rest his chin on the trunk of the car in front of him, inspires many angry gestures from other drivers.
20. Ingrid, _____ we admire for her quick wit and repartee, was speechless when she received a *D-* on her first paper for Professor O'Neil.

Word Choice – Exercise 11: *To, Too, and Two*

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate choice—*to*, *too*, or *two*.

1. After the marathon, Yolanda soaked her _____ sore feet in a bucket of warm water.
2. Jessica agreed to jalapeno slices on her burrito. She regretted this decision _____ hours later as she chewed antacid tablets to relieve her heartburn.
3. If you really want the answers to Dr. Hirta's calculus homework, bring a jelly donut _____ Kristine, the smartest student in the class.
4. The party next door—with its laughter, shouting, and music—was _____ loud, so Lisa banged on her neighbors' door to complain.
5. As we were walking _____ the library, we met Benjamin and Maria, who tempted us away from research with the promise of a hot cheese and pepperoni pizza.
6. The slice of pizza was still _____ hot to eat, but Benjamin couldn't resist, blistering his mouth with the first painful bite.
7. Tony should buy an aquarium full of goldfish. A puppy would be _____ rambunctious for his small apartment.
8. Svetlana has _____ book bags—one that she wears on her shoulders and one that she pulls on rollers—to accommodate all of the big, heavy textbooks for her science courses.
9. If you purchase _____ parakeets, they will sing to each other instead of interacting with you.
10. Whenever our parakeet chirps _____ loudly, we throw a towel over his cage.
11. Instead of researching killer whales for Marine Biology, Jorge went _____ the beach.
12. Martin dreaded going _____ the movies with his young cousins because they started popcorn fights whenever the action onscreen got too slow.
13. Diane was _____ short to reach the oatmeal, so the friendly stock clerk grabbed a box for her.
14. Gordon didn't want _____ miss Spanish class if his teacher Señora Álvarez was rewarding right answers with lollipops.
15. We watched Sam lick the _____ fingers that he ran through the icing of Betty Lou's birthday cake.
16. When Randall heard that Betty Lou got a pet tarantula, he wanted one _____.

17. Randall picked up the tarantula, hoping _____ impress Betty Lou, who had a 10-foot albino python draped over her shoulders.
18. When Betty Lou accused Randall of being a coward, he _____ allowed the tarantula to crawl on his head.
19. Boom! Boom! We heard _____ big oak trees crash onto the street during the violent hurricane.
20. Tatiana took several deep breaths _____ savor the smoky barbecue aroma wafting from her father's gas grill.

Word Choice – Exercise 5: *Loss* and *Lost*

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate choice—*loss* or *lost*.

1. A bolt of lightning crashed outside the window, disrupting the power and causing the computer to reboot. Kim _____ two big paragraphs of her research essay and four new entries to the works cited page.
2. Chris searched the apartment for his Environmental Studies textbook. Its _____ would mean spending another \$75 in the bookstore so that he could study for his final exam.
3. After the Smiths moved, no one mourned their _____. Their noisy parties, unkempt yard, and ferocious dogs had won them no friends in the neighborhood.
4. Madeline grabbed Kebo's leash even more tightly as she read the flyer announcing a \$100 reward for a _____ dog.
5. Rosita gave a wide smile to show the gap where she had wiggled out an incisor. In the morning, she could expect a five-dollar bill under her pillow for the _____ tooth.
6. Richard ducked out of Tito's Taco Palace when he spied Juan and Jessica sharing a large order of nachos. Richard regretted not only the _____ of Jessica, his ex-girlfriend, but also that of Juan, his best friend since middle school.
7. We looked everywhere for the pink sock—including under all the furniture and in the dryer. The gurgling stomach of Chewbacca, Dana's new puppy, might explain the _____.
8. The _____ set of keys eluded Sara, who was already behind schedule and couldn't risk angering her manager Mr. Latoya with another late arrival to work.
9. Bernard _____ thirty points from his essay grade for not parroting Dr. Grayson's analysis of the novel.
10. Cary stared at the top of his head in the bathroom mirror. He worried that the loose strands in the sink signified impending hair _____ and eventual baldness.
11. _____ in the crowd of holiday shoppers, Melinda hoped to find her friends as she no longer had money for a bus ride home.
12. After a strict diet of low-calorie dog food, Sylvia's Labrador retriever no longer resembles a beach ball on sticks. In fact, the _____ of weight enables Hooper to catch Frisbees in midair again.

13. Unable to please Professor Markham with anything he wrote, Anthony withdrew from his contemporary literature class. The three-credit _____ will make a summer semester mandatory if he hopes to graduate next year.
14. _____ in a new sci-fi novel, Jerrod didn't realize that the slices of pizza he was reheating were blackening in the oven.
15. Esmeralda was forced to sneak peeks at Jeffrey's chemistry exam because she had _____ the crib sheet she had carefully prepared the night before.
16. When Jeffrey caught Esmeralda sneaking peeks at his chemistry exam, he immediately _____ respect for his tablemate.
17. Jeffrey's _____ of respect for Esmeralda means that she will not have his company at next week's homecoming festivities.
18. When Tamika left her biology notebook on the city bus, she regretted the _____ of her twelve-page research paper more than the twenty-dollar bill tucked in a pocket.
19. The impending hurricane season inspired the Martinez family to cut down the huge oak tree that towered over the house. The _____ of shade annoyed Mr. Martinez the most as he had the responsibility of paying the higher electric bill.
20. In the homestretch, as competitors began reducing the distance of his lead, Charlie knew the _____ of the race was inevitable as his legs had no more speed to give.

Adverbs

As their name suggests, adverbs add to the meaning of verbs. They tell *how*, *when*, *where* or *why* the action of the verb takes place. Look at the *adverbs* (in heavy type) in these sentences taken from the story. The adverbs add to the meaning of the verbs (in italics). As you can see, adverbs often end with 'ly'.

- I *closed* the door **carefully**.
- **Presently** I *piled* the stove with wood.
- The fire *was still burning* **brightly**.

Many adverbs tell us *how* something happens — e.g. happily, slowly, noisily, fast, violently.

The water sizzled **spitefully**.

Some adverbs tell *when* something happens — e.g. previously, later, often, again, then.

Presently I piled the stove with wood.

Other adverbs tell us *where* something happens — e.g. here, there, everywhere, near, down.

Inside, the darkness was damp and heavy.

Suitable adverbs

Complete each sentence by selecting the most suitable adverb from the group of three on the right.

- (1) He staggered humbly, drunkenly, carefully.
- (2) She laughed furiously, heavily, happily.
- (3) They listened attentively, concisely, brutally.
- (4) You strolled seriously, deeply, casually.
- (5) He crept brilliantly, stealthily, broadly.
- (6) They shouted sadly, loudly, stubbornly.
- (7) I yawned..... wearily, valiantly, cheaply.
- (8) He fought softly, concisely, courageously.
- (9) She waited carefully, weakly, patiently.
- (10) He sneered..... impudently, dimly, earnestly.

Substituting adverbs

Replace the words in italics with adverbs. The first letter has been given to help you.

- (1) He watched the ghost *with anxiety* (a.....).
- (2) He fell asleep *without delay* (i.....).
- (3) *By small degrees* (G.....) the tramp warmed himself.
- (4) He ran *with fear* (f.....) from the room.
- (5) *Not long ago* (R.....) he had been in prison.
- (6) He broke into the house *without difficulty* (e.....).
- (7) *Now and then* (O.....) tramps called at the house.
- (8) The ghost put his hand in the fire *on purpose* (d.....).
- (9) *On many occasions* (F.....) the ghost scared intruders.
- (10) At first, the ghost behaved *with good manners* (p.....).

Adjectives

Adjectives describe people or things. An adjective adds colour, shape, size, strength, feeling or some other quality to a noun. Good writers use adjectives to make their writing come alive. Look at Henry Lawson's description of an unusual dog. The adjectives are in heavy type.

They had a **big black retriever** dog — or rather an **overgrown** pup, a **big, foolish, four-footed** mate, who was always slobbering round them and lashing their legs with his **heavy** tail that swung round like a stock-whip.

from 'The Loaded Dog' by HENRY LAWSON

Identifying adjectives

Novelists use adjectives to give their work life and vitality. Here is a famous description of an old man from Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. Copy out the passage and underline the adjectives.

THE OLD MAN

The old man was thin and gaunt with deep wrinkles in the back of his neck. The brown blotches of the benevolent skin cancer the sun brings from its reflection on the tropic sea were on his cheeks. The blotches ran well down the sides of his face and his hands had the deep-creased scars from handling heavy fish on the cords. But none of these scars were fresh. They were as old as erosions in a fishless desert.

Everything about him was old except his eyes and they were the same colour as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated.

from *The Old Man and the Sea* by ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Pairs of adjectives

Explain the difference in meanings of the adjectives in the word pairs.

1 smiling
laughing

2 weary
exhausted

3 big
gigantic

4 naughty
evil

5 slim
skinny

6 cruel
inhuman

7 annoyed
angry

8 old
antique

9 strong
invincible

Forming adjectives

Complete each example by changing the words in brackets into adjectives and inserting them in the spaces. The first one has been done to help you.

- 1 an ^{angry}..... customer (anger)
- 2 a chair (comfort)
- 3 a flower (beauty)
- 4 a saw (circle)
- 5 an moment (anxiety)
- 6 a decision (fortune)
- 7 a general (victory)
- 8 an penthouse (expense)
- 9 a soldier (courage)
- 10 a stranger (mystery)
- 11 a decision (disaster)
- 12 a fire (destroy)
- 13 an athlete (energy)
- 14 an offer (introduce)
- 15 a suit (fashion)
- 16 a investor (hope)
- 17 a eruption (volcano)
- 18 a child (mischief)
- 19 a parent (pride)
- 20 a experiment (science)

Missing adjectives

Adjectives are often involved in similes. Take the adjectives from the box and insert them correctly in the blank spaces to complete the similes. The first one has been done to help you.

white	busy	old	agile
sober	dry	fat	black
cold	flat	fit	crafty
blind	cool	slow	thin

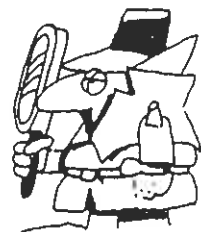
- 1 as blind..... as a bat
- 2 as as a monkey
- 3 as as a fox
- 4 as as a pig
- 5 as as an ant
- 6 as as a tortoise
- 7 as as a rake
- 8 as as the hills
- 9 as as a ghost
- 10 as as a judge
- 11 as as coal
- 12 as as ice
- 13 as as a cucumber
- 14 as as a bone
- 15 as as a fiddle
- 16 as as a pancake

Inserting appropriate verbs

Insert the appropriate verbs from the box into the spaces in the following twenty sentences. Sometimes the first letter has been given to help you.

reclaimed	rehearsed	abandon	renovated	writhed
negotiate	exonerated	avert	obliterated	consumed
repulse	convene	unravel	terminated	comply
rebelled	rescinded	obscured	absorb	eradicate

- (1) The order was given to ship.
- (2) The driver was able to an accident.
- (3) The sponge began to water.
- (4) The student tried to c..... with the rules.
- (5) The gardener decided to all the weeds.
- (6) The developers r..... the waste land.
- (7) The government the unjust law.
- (8) The actors the new play.
- (9) The builders r..... the old house.
- (10) The detective was able to u..... the mystery.
- (11) He was e..... from responsibility for the accident.
- (12) The committee will c..... next month.
- (13) The superpowers will a peace treaty.
- (14) The army was able to the enemy attack.
- (15) The injured athlete in agony.
- (16) The hungry prisoner greedily the meagre food.
- (17) The new building o..... our view of the harbour.
- (18) The bombs o..... the whole town.
- (19) The people against the dictator.
- (20) The radio celebrity t..... her contract.



Forming verbs

Form verbs from these words. (E.g. reduction → *reduce*)

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| (1) reduction | (8) horror | (15) expansion | (22) harmony |
| (2) response | (9) pleasure | (16) recognition | (23) inclusion |
| (3) congratulation | (10) protection | (17) sharp | (24) explosion |
| (4) marriage | (11) tight | (18) application | (25) ruinous |
| (5) initiation | (12) economy | (19) hungry | (26) applause |
| (6) deep | (13) food | (20) rich | (27) stupid |
| (7) denial | (14) deceit | (21) injurious | (28) evasion |

Similar verbs

Select two verbs from the box which are similar in meaning to those in each of the groups below.

clutch	shudder	reprimand	provide	donate
scold	meditate	clasp	ponder	moan
shake	conquer	whimper	overcome	tease
pester	try	attempt	spurt	spout

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| (1) think muse reflect | ..... | ..... |
| (2) criticize rebuke abuse | ..... | ..... |
| (3) strive undertake endeavour | ..... | ..... |
| (4) groan wail whine | ..... | ..... |
| (5) contribute bestow give | ..... | ..... |
| (6) annoy bother irritate | ..... | ..... |
| (7) tremble quake quiver | ..... | ..... |
| (8) grab seize grip | ..... | ..... |
| (9) defeat overthrow vanquish | ..... | ..... |
| (10) gush stream pour | ..... | ..... |

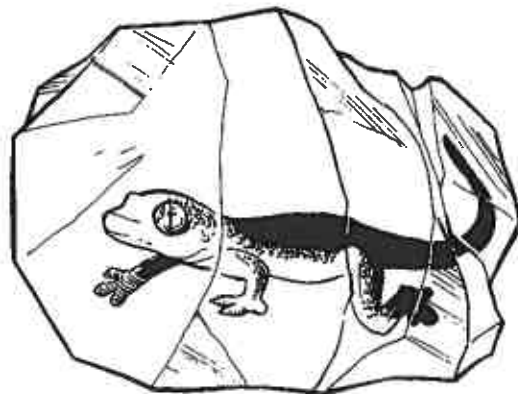
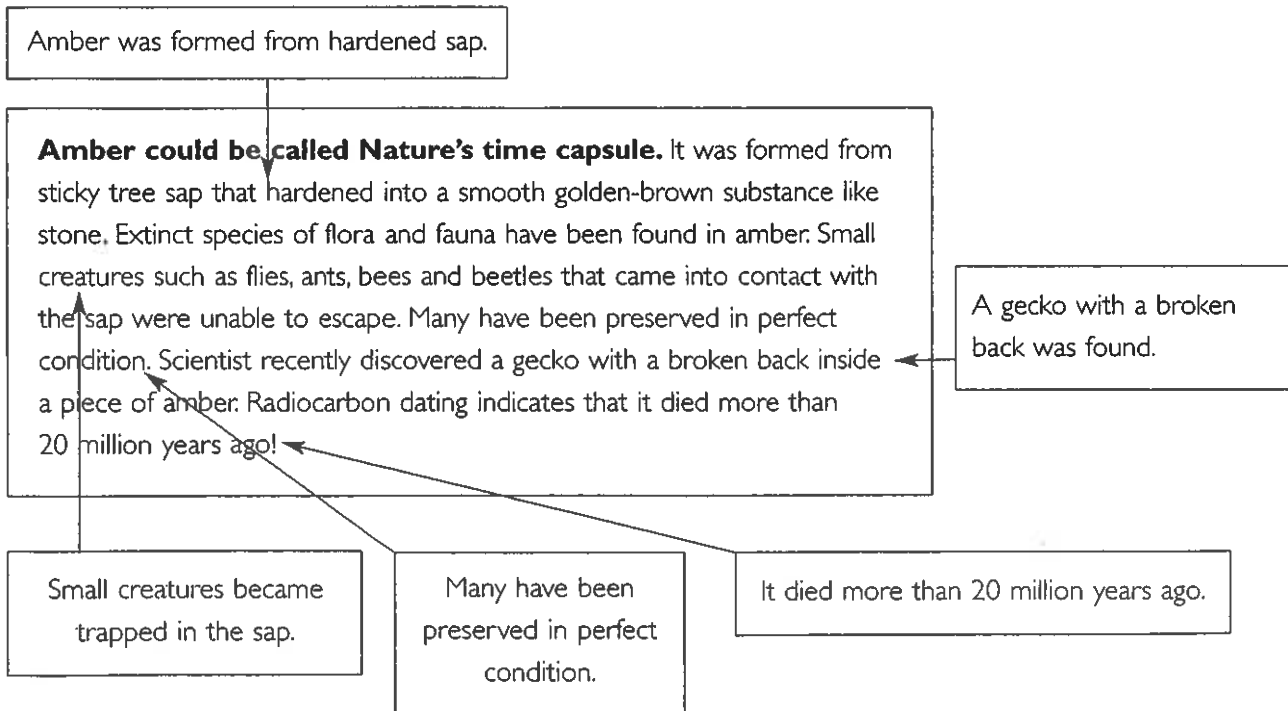
Paragraphs

Written material is often presented in the form of **paragraphs**. Each paragraph usually contains at least one *key* (most important) fact or idea. This is called the **topic** of the paragraph. It is explained in a sentence called the **topic sentence**, which is usually the *first sentence* in the paragraph. The text that follows provides additional information (supporting facts/details) about the topic.

Below is a paragraph about amber. The topic sentence is in bold print. Supporting details are listed in the smaller boxes.

HINT

Read the opening sentence of any paragraph with particular care. It is normally the sentence that tells you what the whole paragraph is about.

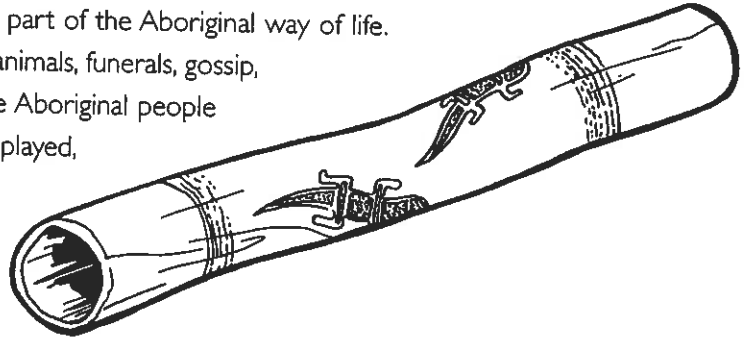


The Didgeridoo

Aboriginal people like music and make many different kinds of musical instruments. Drums are made from hollow logs and covered in snake skin. Rattles are made with seed pods. Sticks are banged together and conch shells blown. However, the best-known musical instrument is the didgeridoo, made from a gum tree branch hollowed out by termites. It is between one and two and a half metres long and is often decorated in Aboriginal designs.

Didgeridoos usually make a low-pitched droning or buzzing sound. The tone depends on the length and shape of the hollow tube. Skilled players can make other sounds by moving their tongues, humming through the nose, gurgling and imitating bird calls.

Didgeridoo playing is an important part of the Aboriginal way of life. There are traditional songs for hunting, animals, funerals, gossip, ancestors and Dreamtime legends. Some Aboriginal people clap sticks together as the didgeridoo is played, while others take part in the singing and dancing.



Read the passage above. Can you answer these questions?

- 1 What is the main idea in paragraph 1?
 - A Drums have snakeskin covers.
 - B Aboriginal people like music and make musical instruments.
 - C Didgeridoos are often decorated with Aboriginal designs.

- 2 Paragraph 2 is about the different sounds made by the didgeridoo. What does the tone depend on?

- 3 What is the main idea in paragraph 3?
 - A Some Aboriginal people sing and dance to the music.
 - B There are traditional songs for hunting and legends.
 - C Didgeridoos are important in the Aboriginal way of life.

- 4 What else does paragraph 3 tell you about Aboriginal music?



WRITING CHALLENGE Design and draw your own didgeridoo. Describe how it was made and what sounds it can make.

A mystery solved

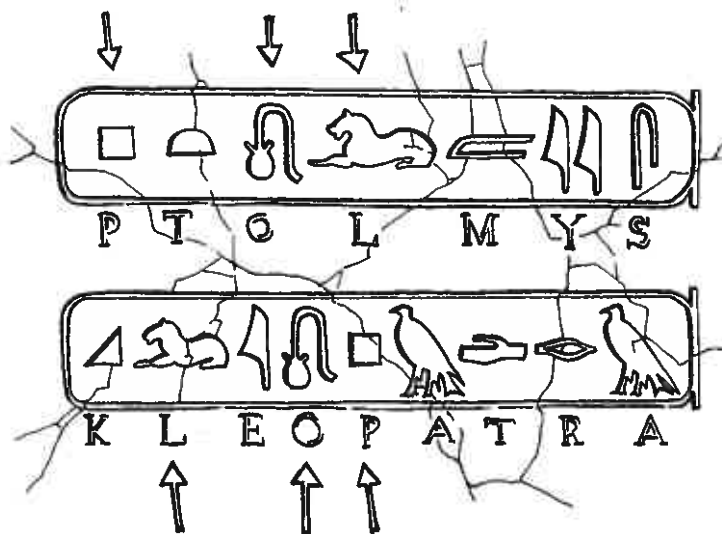
Solving a mystery can be largely a matter of luck, but deductive skills and determination also play a part. The decoding of hieroglyphics (a system of writing using pictures for words) is a case in point.

In 1799, French soldiers digging trenches in Egypt unearthed the Rosetta stone, a large black slab of basalt. There were three inscriptions on it. The top one, partly broken, was in hieroglyphics, the middle one was in demotic (a cursive script derived from hieroglyphics) and the lowest one was in Ancient Greek. Scholars of Greek thought it would be simple to decipher the inscriptions. They soon realised that signs enclosed in oval-ended boxes (cartouches) indicated a royal name. However, most of them eventually gave up. The main stumbling block was an assumption that since hieroglyphics were a kind of picture writing, each glyph (picture) must represent one word. Jean Francois Champollion, a whiz at languages, was determined to solve the mystery of hieroglyphics. It took him fourteen years of hard work.

Jean's first breakthrough came when he noticed there were three times as many Greek words as glyphs. He reasoned that, over the centuries, the symbols had become increasingly phonetic (related to sounds). For example, the glyph in the form of a horned snake might represent *fy*, the Egyptian word for viper, but it could also represent the sound 'f'.

Jean's second breakthrough was to correctly match the hieroglyphics for Ptolemy on the Rosetta stone with the Greek version of the same word. He confirmed his interpretation of the letters 'p', 'o' and 'l' by studying a cartouche enclosing Cleopatra's name found earlier on an Egyptian obelisk. Using these three letters as a starting point, he worked out the remaining hieroglyphics in the Ptolemy cartouche (see below). Additional glyphs for Ptolemy's title ('Ever-living' and so on) were intermingled with the letters of the name. This made the task much more challenging.

The cartouches for Ptolemy and Cleopatra shown below have been simplified for comprehension purposes. Ptolemy's cartouche actually contained 18 glyphs and Cleopatra's had eleven.



Cartouches for Ptolemy and Cleopatra

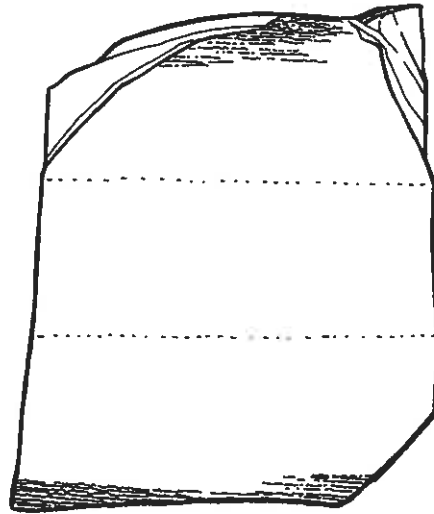
Jean's amazing knowledge and understanding of languages was the key to his success. His familiarity with Coptic was especially helpful. Coptic is an obscure language that descends directly from ancient Egyptian. It provided Jean with numerous clues.

Extend yourself

Read the passage on page 105 and answer the questions below.

- 1 What is the main idea of paragraph 1?
 - A It took Jean Champollion fourteen years to decode hieroglyphics.
 - B The discovery of the Rosetta stone is a good example.
 - C French soldiers were digging trenches in Egypt.
 - D Luck, deductive skills and perseverance can help solve a mystery.

- 2 Paragraph 2 is about the Rosetta stone. Use the information provided in the paragraph to label the diagram shown here. Include as many details as possible, such as colour. You may need to use arrows.



- 3 Complete these supporting statements from paragraph 2.
 - (a) Scholars thought it would be _____ to decipher the glyphs.
 - (b) They realised that cartouches indicated a _____ name.
 - (c) They assumed wrongly that each glyph _____ one word.
 - (d) It took Jean _____ years to decipher the stone.

- 4 Underline the topic sentence in paragraph 3.

- 5 Summarise the supporting details in paragraph 3.

- 6 What is the main idea in paragraph 4?

- 7 Rewrite the topic sentence in the final paragraph, using your own words.



WRITING CHALLENGE Devise a code using pictures, numbers or symbols and write a message for a partner to decipher.

- 1 The passage on page 105 is about how the riddle of Egyptian hieroglyphics was solved. What part did luck play?

- 2 Why was determination necessary?

- 3 Give an example of Jean's deductive skills.

- 4 What other skill helped him decipher the Rosetta stone?

- 5 The discovery of the Ptolemy cartouche provided Jean's second breakthrough. What made its decoding difficult?

- 6 Below is a clueless crossword puzzle. You will need luck, deductive skills and perseverance to solve it. Nineteen letters of the alphabet are used and each has its own number. Five letters are provided. *Hint:* Use a pencil and fill in known letters first.

15	12	4	16		16	12	16	2	6
7			10		19		12		
	17	2	19	15	11	12	14	1	
4	3		17		6		7		4
2	3	18	6	8		10			6
6				19		3		15	6
6	15		1	10	19	5	5	6	8
11	12	6		9		13			6
6	14		5	6		4	3	2	8
10	12	18	6	10		16			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
g	l		s		e				r									



WRITING CHALLENGE Imagine you are Jean. Write a letter to a friend or colleague explaining how you deciphered the Rosetta stone.

WORKING DOGS



Most people own dogs because they are friendly pets for all the family to enjoy. Others keep them to guard houses or business premises because most dogs naturally bark at strangers. German Shepherds or Doberman Pinschers are the dogs most commonly used for this purpose. But you may not have realised that many dogs are trained to work hard.

Take a look next time you see a flock of sheep going along a road, there is usually a dog with them. It keeps running from side to side behind the flock. This is a sheep-dog at work. Its job is to prevent any sheep from dropping behind or running out from the sides of the flock. In Britain, they use their own breed of English sheep-dog, but most Australian sheep-dogs are Kelpies. It is not an easy job for a Kelpie to control sheep that are in a large paddock. The dog has to run round and round the flock. The owner whistles or shouts orders to tell the dog what it must do. Sometimes when there are large numbers of sheep, more than one dog is needed. Dogs rush and bark at sheep to frighten them into moving in a certain direction. This is not always easy when sheep have to be driven into a yard. In this situation, there is often no room for one dog or more to move in and around the yard. They solve this problem by leaping up and running across the backs of the sheep. All this can be seen at sheep-dog trials which are held in some cities at show time.

Dogs are also trained to control cattle. Several breeds are used overseas for this job including, strangely enough, little Welsh Corgis. In Australia, the Blue-heeler is perhaps the most popular cattle dog. It barks and nips the legs of cattle to make them move in the right direction.

In cold lands, teams of dogs pull sleds across ice and snow. The Eskimo sled-dog is the Husky, which is strong and has thick fur to keep out the cold. Eskimo trappers have teams consisting of six dogs to pull their sleds when they are out trapping. Perhaps you have seen these dogs on television. The dogs are sometimes not friendly towards each other and at the end of the day they are tied up apart so they do not fight.

1. In Australia, what sort of dog is mainly used to round up sheep?
2. What do we call contests for sheep-dogs?
3. What is an Eskimo sled-dog called?

■ Circle the right answer:

4. Sheep-dogs jump and walk on sheep because:
(a) they can bite their ears easier (b) the sheep can hear them bark (c) there is no room to run round.
5. To make steers move, a cattle-dog:
(a) leaps at their throats (b) barks and bites at their feet (c) runs round and round in circles.
6. The most commonly used dogs for guarding premises would be:
(a) Corgis and Huskys (b) Terriers and Spaniels (c) German Shepherds and Doberman Pinschers.
7. Complete part of the sentence which tells you that Eskimo dogs are quarrelsome:
8. What breed of dog is mentioned that we would not expect to be used to round up cattle?

■ Write the word from the passage that means the same as:

9. to find delight in
10. state of affairs

The Disappearances of Madalena Grimaldi

As well as constructing an above-ground city on this site there was also a city under the ground. Replicating the maze of roads that got us around on the surface was a maze of subterranean tunnels and pipes. In the sewer tunnels you could go from Balmain to Bondi without ever coming up above ground. As well as sewerage tunnels there were water tunnels, drainage, mining, electricity, gas, railway tunnels, telephone tunnels, not forgetting the Harbour Tunnel itself. We used them every day in one way or another. We travelled on trains under the city, pulled water through the pipes every time we turned the tap on or flushed the toilet, sent messages along the cables in underground tunnels every time we used the phone.

Just when you think you've hit rock bottom you discover it's only another layer and that there are more underneath. The surface of the city is merely a skin. Beneath it are the veins carrying life blood, air vents that act as lungs, the sewers of the lymphatic system draining away waste products, telephone lines the nervous system transmitting messages for the proper functioning of the body.

In our myths, in our collective psyches, the underworld is a dark and unknown place, because there lurk the monsters with thin wraith-like tendrils that can pull you down. It is the dark side of the mirror. Dante's downward rings that descend into hell.

...

I wandered over to the Archibald Memorial Fountain. Through the spray of water I kept watch on the patch of street Raf used as a canvas. He still hadn't shown up.

On the central pedestal of the fountain stood a naked young Adonis permanently pointing towards St Mary's Cathedral, though why a pagan god should be pointing in that direction was beyond me. Water fanned up behind him like a peacock's tail and surrounding him were male and female figures wrestling, killing, or just plain posing with a variety of horned beasts.

I left the fountain to the tourists and walked over to a chess game in progress. There were huge black and white squares painted on the ground dotted with plastic chess pieces about a metre tall. Chaps sat around on benches watching the game, just as they would have done in Mediterranean villages. Except here we were surrounded by tree ferns and other shade-loving plants with large lush leaves. One of the players, a tall lanky man in shorts and a red T-shirt, had his shopping hanging in a plastic bag on a confiscated bishop. Throughout the entire game neither he nor his opponent said a word to each other.

• Marele Day, *The Disappearances of Madalena Grimaldi*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, NSW, 1994. Reproduced with permission.

Glossary

- Dante:** A fourteenth-century Italian poet whose most famous poem, *The Divine Comedy*, includes a description of a descent into hell.
- Adonis:** A beautiful youth in Greek mythology.
- bishop:** A chess piece.

Definitions

- metaphor:** A figure of speech in which one thing is described in terms of another, eg *stony-hearted*.
- simile:** A figure of speech comparing two things using the words *like* or *as*, eg *The book was as heavy as lead* and *His finger was hooked like a claw*.
- analogy:** A likeness or partial similarity between things which can be compared. In the above extract the narrator points out the analogy between the city of Sydney and the network of underground tunnels beneath it.
- personification:** The attribution of human qualities to inanimate objects. Personification is a form of metaphor.

Activities

Context, purpose and audience

- 1 *The Disappearances of Madalena Grimaldi* features private investigator Claudia Valentine, who narrates the story. What analogy is she making in the first paragraph? (Check the definition of an analogy above.)
- 2 What, according to the narrator, is a common human fear?
- 3 How does the author engage the reader's interest?
- 4 Why is the narrator waiting in the park with the fountain?

Language forms and features

- 5 Explain the metaphor in the second paragraph.
- 6 Below are some images from the extract. Identify each as either a simile or metaphor.
 - a water fanned up behind him like a peacock's tail
 - b monsters with thin, wraith-like tendrils
 - c the surface of the city is merely a skin
 - d air vents that act as lungs
 - e the sewers of the lymphatic system draining away waste products
- 7 What features of this extract are common to crime fiction?
- 8 Prepositions can be confusing. Some words go together with certain prepositions, eg she was suffering from concussion (not *with*, or *about*, or *to*). Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with prepositions selected from the list below.
 in to from upon with of on along under
 - a His shopping was hanging _____ a plastic bag _____ a hook.
 - b We travelled _____ trains _____ the city.
 - c The city had spread out, encroaching _____ the surrounding bushland.
 - d We sent messages _____ the cables.
 - e His actions are not consistent _____ his advice to his subordinates.
 - f The author was complimented _____ her new book.
 - g It is similar _____ this, but different _____ that.
 - h Abstaining _____ sweets can help you lose weight.
 - i The report consists _____ a number _____ different sections.
- 9 Marele Day personifies the city in her description of its telephone lines that act as a nervous system. Which of the following are examples of personification?
 - a The wind howled in the tree-tops
 - b The birds sang insistently, making our heads ache.
 - c Mud sucked at our shoes, gripping our feet with icy fingers.
 - d The weather smiled upon us.

Responding and composing

- 10 In this novel there are many passages which describe the city from the narrator's point of view. Describe a place or landscape with which you are very familiar. You may like to use imagery such as personification, or other metaphors and similes, to convey your impressions vividly to the reader. Write 350-400 words.

Critical thinking and reflection

- 11 What control do humans have over their environment? How do you think the place you described in question 10 has changed over a period of time? What are the causes of these changes?

HAVING FUN WITH POETRY

Read the following poem and then check your understanding of the poem and its use of poetic techniques by answering the questions that follow.

The Man From Ironbark

It was the man from Ironbark who struck the Sydney town,
He wandered over street and park, he wandered up and down.
He loitered here, he loitered there, till he was like to drop,
Until at last in sheer despair he sought a barber's shop.
"Ere! shave my beard and whiskers off, I'll be a man of mark,
I'll go and do the Sydney toff up homè in Ironbark."

The barber man was small and flash, as barbers mostly are,
He wore a strike-your-fancy sash, he smoked a huge cigar;
He was a humorist of note and keen at repartee*,
He laid the odds and kept a "tote", whatever that may be,
And when he saw our friend arrive, he whispered, "Here's a lark!
Just watch me catch him all alive, this man from Ironbark."

*witty comments

There were some gilded youths* that sat along the barber's wall.
Their eyes were dull, their heads were flat, they had no brains at all;
To them the barber passed the wink, his dexter* eyelid shut,
"I'll make this bloomin' yokel think his bloomin' throat is cut."
And as he soaped and rubbed it in he made a rude remark:
"I s'pose the flats is pretty green up there in Ironbark."

*young men of wealth
and fashion

*right side

A grunt was all the reply he got; he shaved the bushman's chin,
Then made the water boiling hot and dipped the razor in.
He raised his hand, his brow grew black, he paused awhile to gloat,
Then slashed the red-hot razor-back across his victim's throat;
Upon the newly-shaven skin it made a livid mark --
No doubt it fairly took him in -- the man from Ironbark.

He fetched a wild up-country yell might wake the dead to hear,
And though his throat, he knew full well, was cut from ear to ear,
He struggled gamely to his feet, and faced the murd'rous foe:
"You've done for me! you dog, I'm beat! one hit before I go!
I only wish I had a knife, you blessed murdering shark!
But you'll remember all your life the man from Ironbark."

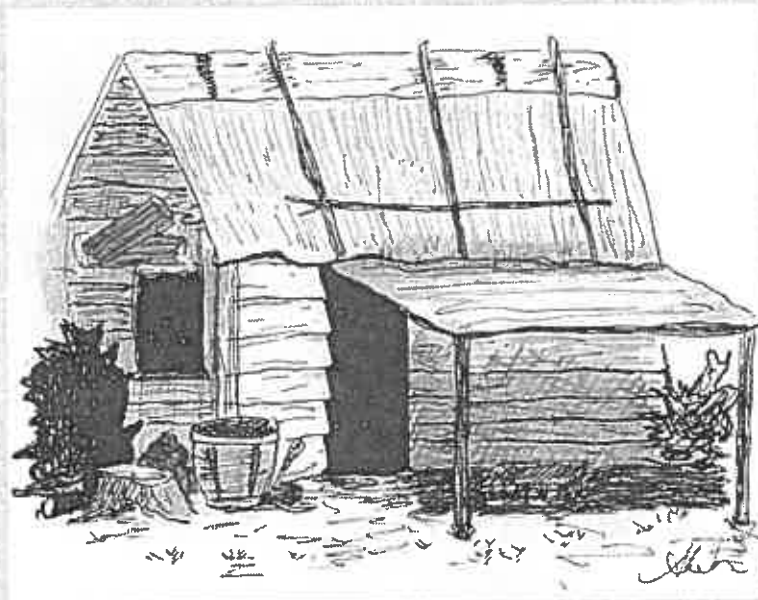
He lifted up his hairy paw, with one tremendous clout
He landed on the barber's jaw, and knocked the barber out.
He set to work with nail and tooth, he made the place a wreck;
He grabbed the nearest gilded youth, and tried to break his neck.
And all the while his throat he held to save his vital spark,
And "Murder! B_____y murder!" yelled the man from Ironbark.

A peeler* man who heard the din came in to see the show;
He tried to run the bushman in, but he refused to go.
And when at last the barber spoke, and said "'Twas all in fun --
'Twas just a little harmless joke, a trifle overdone."
"A joke!" he cried, "By George, that's fine; a lively sort of lark;
I'd like to catch that murdering swine some night in Ironbark."

*policeman

And now while round the shearing floor the list'ning shearers gape,
He tells the story o'er and o'er, and brags of his escape.
"Them barber chaps what keeps a tote, By George, I've had enough,
One tried to cut my bloomin' throat, but thank the Lord it's tough."
And whether he's believed or no, there's one thing to remark,
That flowing beards are all the go way up in Ironbark.

- *A. B. (Banjo) Patterson*



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

The Man from Ironbark

1. The main purpose of this text is to
 - (A) inform
 - (B) persuade
 - (C) entertain
 - (D) instruct
2. Where does the man from Ironbark come from?
 - (A) the bush
 - (B) the city
 - (C) another country
 - (D) Sydney
3. What is the trick that the barber plays on the man from Ironbark?
 - (A) He slashes his throat to kill him
 - (B) He pretends to cut his beard and hair
 - (C) He convinces him his throat has been cut
 - (D) He teases him and is rude to him
4. What does the description of his "*hairy paw*" emphasise about the man?
 - (A) He does not treat people gently
 - (B) He does not shave regularly
 - (C) He is well groomed and cultured
 - (D) He is rough and unsophisticated
5. What does the line, "*And all the while his throat he held to save his vital spark,*", mean?
 - (A) The man had not fallen for the barber's trick
 - (B) He held his throat to reduce the blood flow
 - (C) There was nothing the man could do to help himself
 - (D) He grabbed the barber's throat as if to kill him
6. What narrative person is the poem composed in?
 - (A) first
 - (B) second
 - (C) third
 - (D) a mixture of first and second
7. Which is the best way to describe the language of the poem?
 - (A) subjective and descriptive
 - (B) opinionated and negative
 - (C) concise and factual
 - (D) formal and objective

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

The Man from Ironbark

1. In **THREE** sentences, summarise what happened in the poem.

2. a) Use the table below to list **FIVE** words that describe the barber and provide evidence that explains why you see the barber this way.
(think of the things he does, how he speaks and the way his shop is)

Adjective	Evidence

- b) Using your adjectives and evidence, write **TWO** paragraphs that explain how the ballad shows the character of the barber to the audience. *(the lines continue over the next page!)*

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
3. You probably do not know that a “tote” is used for betting. This means the barber takes bets at his shop (like a TAB). How is this in keeping with his character?

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
4. a) Explain the meaning of the lines

... shave my beard and whiskers off, I'll be a man of mark,
I'll go and do the Sydney toff up home in Ironbark.

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
- b) What does this comment show about the man from Ironbark?

5. Find evidence to show that the man from Ironbark was not comfortable in the town.

6. How does Patterson show the responder that the man from Ironbark has really fallen for the barber's trick?

(Think about the way his response has been written)

7. a) Explain the final stanza.

- b) Why is it an amusing end to the story?

Extension Activity

A.B (Banjo) Patterson wrote many texts about colonial Australia. Research his work and experience more of his compositions. Try to find something other than the very famous, *The Man from Snowy River!*

REVISING PARTS OF SPEECH & VOCABULARY BUILDING

Remember when you revised nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs? It is important that you do not forget these **parts of speech**. These activities are designed to increase your skills in manipulating language.

Activities

1. Write a sentence where the following appear as the parts of speech indicated. You will probably need to consult a dictionary.

a) parable (noun)

b) oblique (adjective)

c) obliterate (verb)

d) ruefully (adverb)

e) repertoire (noun)

f) translucent (adjective)

g) retrieve (verb)

h) repent (verb)

2. Change the following words to the other parts of speech to fill the table.

Noun	Adjective	Adverb
patience		
	strong	
		dejectedly
potency		
	blissful	

COMMON MIX UPS!

The following activities involve some of the most common mix-ups students make.

1. Circle the correct word.

- a) There/Their/They're is no reason to miss school tomorrow.
- b) At the party there were/where empty pizza boxes everywhere
- c) To/Too/Two many teachers had complained so the excursion was off.
- d) The children ran there/their/they're bikes into the shed.
- e) The to/too/two boys ran across to/too/two the shop to/too/two buy some crisps to/too/two.
- f) Helga did not want to lose/loose a minute of her playtime.
- g) I know I would always choose/chose to see science fiction over realism.

2. Rewrite the following so they are correct.

- a) There was alot of children at the theatre.

-
- b) Kevin was furious as he knew he could of won if he ran harder.

-
- c) The children grabbed they're lose change and ran to the icecream van.

-
- d) "Find your mother quickly" said Mrs Greaves.

-
- e) "His not the one that deserves the prize". the judge pronounced.

-
- f) You never should of entered the silly contest.

-
- g) Without warning jasons lunchbox exploded!

-
- h) Sallys and Belindas textbooks were soaked with muddy water.
-

COMPREHENSION: FEATURE ARTICLE

Shoppers get short changed Where has all the fun gone?

by Maree. S Jones



How is it that no matter where I shop, no matter what I'm shopping for, I end up feeling like a naughty girl caught stealing from the biscuit jar? I mean, shopping used to be so fun. I can remember the sheer delight of browsing and calling cheerily, "just looking" to assistants that were delighted to let you do just that.

Now I'm paranoid that those "Security to Area 36" announcements are focused on me. The *supposed* assistants skulk behind shelving watching my every move. I blame society's infatuation with all those television crime shows. I mean, I'm not even wearing a trench coat. Admittedly I'm a little twitchy, but it's the experience I fear. I'm nervous under those stares - it's a vicious cycle, an evil Catch 22...

Even those shop assistants that seem friendly stretch their smiles so wide they become freaky Cheshire cats. Their pandering and simpering as they wish me an all-American "nice day" drives me crazy. Considering the smile is about all they can be bothered to do, the pretence enrages me.

Last week, half naked in the cupboard they were pretending was a change-room, I beckoned desperately to an alleged assistant. She greeted me straight out of a toothpaste commercial, beaming benevolently. Asking (embarrassingly politely and meekly) for a different size pair of jeans her response was telling: "Have you looked on the rack?" She even snorted derisively. Confessing I hadn't and beginning a long apologetic explanation of *usually being a size 10 but in this style...* I caught the eye roll as she sighed heavily to go look herself. Clearly the ten metres trek was wearying and her vision of her role tended to the decorative as opposed to the helpful.

And I am no more comfortable at the supermarkets. Ducking in for milk and bread has become part of my exercise regime since their location at the back corner of the shop necessitates a ten minute jog to locate them. I do star-jumps and squats as I wait in the twenty person queue for the *8 Item or less* aisle.

When I am forced to do that huge shop, (no matter how hard I try I cannot convince my family to stop eating!) the

episode gets stormier at the checkouts. It always amazes me when there are eighteen checkouts but only two operators on, both working to the rhythms of paint drying.

And don't you love the idea of no lollies in that 'special aisle'? Thoughtfully, this is to help mums like me whose two year olds are actually born-again rhinos who can rage and bellow better than anything you'll see on the Discovery Channel. Yet somehow replacing the lollies with preschool toys doesn't quite strike me as terribly helpful. I am sure it is an oversight and the intention isn't to force their sale on pushed-over-the-limit mothers.

I promise you I've tried to have my say. Yesterday, I waited fifteen minutes to get

to a register. Even over the screams of my toddler I could hear the ice-cream's metamorphosis into a giant thick-shake. When the checkout boy inquired, "And how are you today?" I let it rip.

An enraged beast, eyeballs dilating and nostrils flapping I went for his jugular. For a milli-second he looked slightly ruffled but then, soothed by the hypnotic beeps of the product scanner, he calmed to look directly at me and beam benevolently. He stretched the smile so wide it almost met itself at the back of his head. Defeated by absolute disinterest, my fury fizzled. I glared impotently. The smile did not waver. He even hoped that I'd have a nice day as I left, chastened and contrite.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Summarise the main comments about shopping made by the author of this article.

2. What is the purpose of this article?

3. Who is the target audience for this article? Support your answer by referring to the article.

4. How does the headline try and attract readers?
(Hint: look at what it says and how it says it)

5. How does the opening paragraph try and gain the interest of the reader?

6. a) Describe the tone of the article providing evidence to support your ideas.

b) How does this tone help make the article more effective?

(Hint: Remember what the purpose was. How does the tone help the article communicate ideas? Think about the audience. Does it make it more readable?)

7. For each of the following:

- In your own words explain what is being said
- Explain how the comment creates humour

It always amazes me when there are eighteen checkouts but only two operators on, both working to the rhythms of paint drying.

a) Explanation:

b) How is humour created?

I could hear the ice-cream's metamorphosis into a giant thick-shake.

a) Explanation:

b) How is humour created?

8. a) What is the figure of speech used in the line,

An enraged beast, eyeballs dilating and nostrils flapping I went for his jugular?

b) Explain why this is effective.

9. How does the tone of the following statement help make its comment?

I am sure it is an oversight and the intention isn't to force their sale on pushed-over-the-limit mothers.

10. Where would you expect to find this article? Explain your answer.
